

Communicable Diseases and Epidemiology

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Health Advisory: CDC Guidance on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) To Be Used by Healthcare Workers During Management of Patients with Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in U.S. Hospitals, 20 OCT 2014

Action requested:

- All healthcare providers and healthcare facilities should carefully review the complete guidance at, <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/procedures-for-ppe.html>
- The guidance can serve a framework to evaluate staff, administrative and logistical readiness to safely care for Ebola cases.

Background

- The guidance includes the following topics:
- Recommended Administrative and Environmental Controls for Healthcare Facilities
- Principles of PPE
- Training on Correct Use of PPE
- Use of a Trained Observer
- Designating Areas for PPE Donning and Doffing
- Selection of PPE for Healthcare Workers during Management of Ebola Patients
- Recommended Personal Protective Equipment
- Recommended PPE for Trained Observer during Observations of PPE Doffing
- Preparing for Doffing

The guidance also included links to other useful resources: External (Non-CDC) Resources on PPE: Emory Healthcare: Ebola Preparedness Protocols; University of Nebraska Medical Center: PPE for Ebola; Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors without Borders): Filovirus Haemorrhagic Fever Guideline, 2008; World Health Organization (WHO): Infection prevention and control guidance for care of patients in health-care settings, with focus on Ebola.

Key principles:

- Prior to working with Ebola patients, all healthcare workers involved in the care of Ebola patients must have received repeated training and have demonstrated competency in performing all Ebola-related infection control practices and procedures, and specifically in donning/doffing proper PPE.
- While working in PPE, healthcare workers caring for Ebola patients should have no skin exposed.
- The overall safe care of Ebola patients in a facility must be overseen by an onsite manager at all times, and each step of every PPE donning/doffing procedure must be supervised by a trained observer to ensure proper completion of established PPE protocols.

In healthcare settings, Ebola is spread through direct contact (e.g., through broken skin or through mucous membranes of the eyes, nose, or mouth) with blood or body fluids of a person who is sick with Ebola or with objects (e.g., needles, syringes) that have been contaminated with the virus. For all healthcare workers caring for Ebola patients, PPE with full body coverage is recommended to further reduce the risk of self-contamination. **To protect healthcare workers during care of an Ebola patient, healthcare facilities must provide onsite management and oversight on the safe use of PPE and implement administrative and environmental controls with continuous safety checks through direct observation of healthcare workers during the PPE donning and doffing processes.**

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